

The Examiner also stated that claims 51 and 53 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 51 and 53 would be allowable if rewritten.

Examiner Interview

Applicants' representatives conducted an interview with the Examiner on October 13, 2005. During the interview, Applicants' representatives provided the Examiner with copies of English-language translations of JP '508 and JP '606 (duplicate copies of which are also filed, together with this Amendment, in the SIDS). Also, Applicants and the Examiner discussed claims 35, 60, and 77; Kuze, JP '508, JP '606, and JP '912; and the terms "directional", "symmetrical", "asymmetrical", "adjacent", "delimited", "substantially perpendicular", and "approximately transverse". Applicants' representatives discussed limitations of the Kuze, JP '508, JP '606, and JP '912 references, but did not propose any substantive claim amendments. No agreement was reached as to whether any claims would be allowable based on the topics discussed.

Objection Under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a)

In this Amendment, Applicants amend the Abstract of the Disclosure. Applicants submit that this amendment obviates the Examiner's objection under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a).

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)—Claims 35-50, 52, and 54-59

Applicants submit that independent claim 35, as currently pending, is not unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over any proper combination of Croyle, Kuze, Schomburg, Ushikubo,

Interview Record Ok
Jm 2-20-06